Deal with Hyundai

688. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRI [PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Economic Times, Bombay dated 12th November, 1990, under the caption 'Deal with Hyundai-Delay to cost more foreign exchange burden';

(b) whether it is a fact that the delay in finalising the contract with Hyundai for purchase of six oil tankers has resulted in cancellation of order which would mean foreign exchange burden on Government;

(c) if so, what were the reasons for non-clearance of the case from mid-January to February 28th, 1990 the last date for expiry of the contract; and

(d) what action Government propose lo take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WIT$_H$ ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (do No, Sir. No orders were placed with the yard and so the question of cancellation of the order did not arise. Government considered the proposal in, March, 1990 but did not find it possible to approve it because of foreign exchange constraints^

Lpgradation of talks between India and Pakistan

689. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have expressed their readiness to upgrade to political level the discussions which they had with Pakistan for normalising relations at the Foreign Secretaries level; and

(b) if so, by when a Ministerial level meeting is expected to take place between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Government of India has always been willing to have a dialogue at any level considered appropriate, with Pakistan for the resolution of bilateral differences and for the normalisation of relations. Political-level discussions can be fruitful only in an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence and after due preparation. At present, the two countries are engaged in a dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretaries. Political level talks will be initiated as soon as the time for it is propitious.

Solution of Sri Lankan problem

690. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has suggested to Sri Lanka to sort out the ethnic crisis there within the framework of the Indo-Sri Lankan Peace Agreement;

ID) if so, what is me reaction of the Sri Lankan Government in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to deal with this problem in Sri Lanka in the wake of a war-like situation between LTTE and Sri Lankan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Government of India believes that the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement (July 1987) provides the framework for a settlement of the ethnic issue.

(b) On the basis of the devolution pac kage, contained in the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, the Sri Lanka Government enacted the 13 th Constitutional Amend ment (Nov., 1987) and consequential legis lation. It devolves on the Sri Lanka Gov ernment to implement it in letter and spirit.